

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-07 JUSE-00 SY-04 DRC-01 TRSE-00

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P R 010650Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1739

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR PFOR HK TW UK

SUBJ: POSSIBLE BRITISH REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE ON HONG KONG
SEAMEN SENTENCED IN TAIWAN

1. HONG KONG GOVERNMENT POLITICAL ADVISOR ALAN DONALD SHOWED ME CABLE EXCHANGE WITH FCO CONCERNING TWO HONG KONG SEAMEN ARRESTED IN KAOSHIUNG FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING AND SENTENCED TO DEATH. FCO MESSAGE OUTLINED RATHER FAR-FETCHED BRITISH CONCERNS OVER DEATH PENALTY, POINTING OUT THAT HKG HAD BEEN ASKING FOR ITS REINSTITUTION IN HONG KONG WHILE THIS WAS BEING RESISTED BY LABOR GOVERNMENT AND DRAWING CONCLUSION THAT FAILURE TO PROTEST IN SOME FASHION THE CARRYING OUT OF PENALTY IN TAIWAN AGAINST HONG KONG SEAMEN THEREFORE WOULD BE INCONSISTENT. LONDON ALSO EXPRESSED FEARS THAT AMMESTY INTERNATIONAL WOULD SOMEHOW BECOME INVOLVED. FCO IS GOING TO CONTACT US CONSUL GENERAL IN LONDON AND ALSO SUGGESTED EMBASSY APPROACH IN WASHINGTON FOR SOME SORT OF US INTERVENTION AS PROTECTING POWER.

2. IN COMMENTED THAT PERSONALLY I THOUGHT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT WE WOULD INTERVENE IN SUCH A MATTER. IN FIRST PLACE,
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SEAMEN, WHILE HOLDING HONG KONG IDENTITY CARDS, WERE

CHINA-BORN AND WERE THUS TO CHINESE EYES CHINESE CITIZENS
BREAKING CHINESE LAWS. IT WAS INCONVEIVABLE FOR
EXAMPLE THAT PRC OFFICIALS WOULD COUNTENANCE A SIMILAR APPROACH HAD
OFFENSE OCCURRED ON MAINLAND. I ALSO SAID THAT ARREST OF DRUG
TRAFFICKERS CARRYING 5 POUNDS OF NUMBER THREE HEROIN
PRESUMABLY DESTINED FOR US WAS SOMETHING WE WOULD BE
COMPLIMENTING ROC AUTHORITIES FOR AND WHETHER OR NOT IT
WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF DEA-ROC-HKG COOPERATION, ARREST
AND INFORMATION DERIVED FROM PRISONERS WOULD BE HELPFUL.
THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT HARSH PENALTY WOULD
SERVE AS A DETERRENT AND SUPPORT OUR MUTUAL EFFORT.
FYI: THERE IS A LOT OF OPERATIONAL STUFF INVOLVED HERE INCLUDING
HOLDING DEATH PENALTY OVER SUBJECTS IN ORDER TO EXTRACT
FURTHER INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE. END FYI.
THEREFORE, WHILE WHAT WE MIGHT DO WAS UP TO DEPARTMENT AND OUR
EMBASSY IN TAIPEI , I HOPED WE WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEROIN, DRUG TRAFFIC, MERCHANT SEAMEN, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK08671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740209-0582
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740883/aaaacteo.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE BRITISH REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE ON HONG KONG SEAMEN SENTENCED IN TAIWAN
TAGS: SNAR, PFOR, HK, TW, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005